

SIKES DISPOSAL PITS TEXAS

EPA REGION 6 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 09

EPA ID# TXD980513956

Site ID: 0602488

Harris County

Updated: April 19, 2005

SITE DESCRIPTION

- Location:** ● The Site is located about two miles southwest of Crosby, immediately north of old U.S. Highway 90, and roughly 20 miles northeast of Houston, Harris County, Texas.
- Population:** ● Approximately 10,000 people reside in Crosby and the surrounding communities.
- Setting:** ● The distance to the nearest residence and nearest drinking water well is 1,000 feet.
 ● The Site comprises approximately 185 acres.
 ● Evidence of uncontrolled waste dumping was found throughout the Site.
 ● The Site is bordered by the San Jacinto River on the west, Jackson Bayou on the north, and old U.S. Highway 90 on the south.
- Hydrology:** ● The Site is characterized by river alluvium overlying Texas Coastal Plain deposits.
 ● Shallow water-bearing zones occur in the alluvium.
 ● A second water producing zone is found in a sandy silt zone of the Coastal Plain Deposits at about a 65-foot depth.
 ● The Chicot and Evangeline Aquifers occur below this zone, beneath several hundred feet of clay.
 ● The Site lies within the 100-year flood plain of San Jacinto River.

PRESENT STATUS AND ISSUES

- The preliminary Close Out Report documenting completion of construction activities was signed in January 1995.
- The second Five Year Inspection Report was issued in September 2001, the remedy is protective of human health and environment short-term.

WASTES AND VOLUMES

- A wide variety of organic and inorganic wastes were deposited indiscriminately at the Site.
- Waste volumes at the Site were approximately as follows:
 - o 350 million gallons contaminated ground and surface water;
 - o 496,000 tons of organic sludge and contaminated soils; and
 - o 2000 drums of mixed waste.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

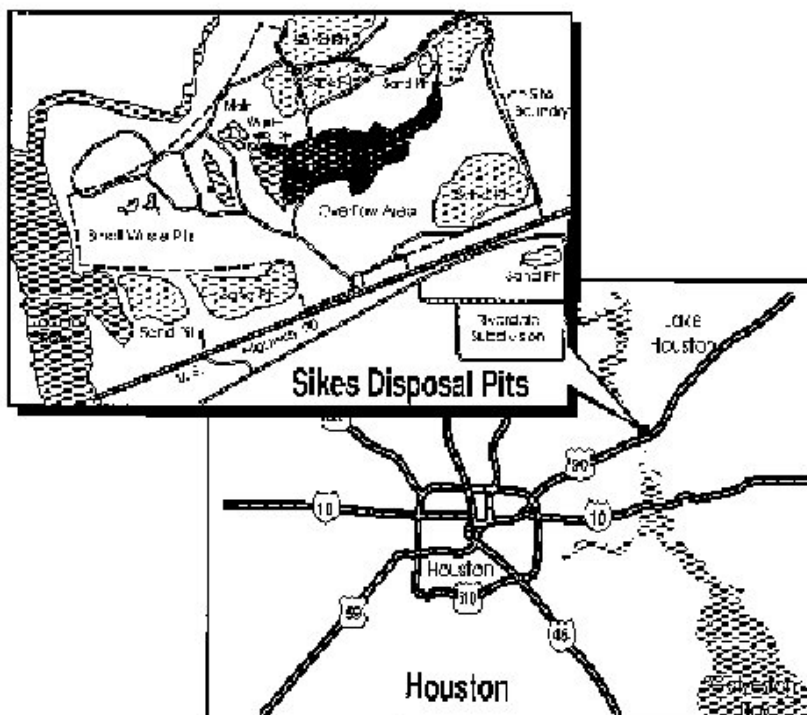
NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 61.62

Proposed Date: 10/23/81

Final Date: 9/08/83

SITE MAP AND DIAGRAM



SITE HISTORY

- In the early to late 1960's a variety of chemical wastes from the area petrochemical companies were disposed in on-site unlined sand pits.
- Site operation conducted until sometime in 1968.
- Wastes contained organic chemicals and heavy metals (such as arsenic, mercury, cadmium, chromium and lead).
- In June 1983, the EPA removed approximately 40 cubic yards of phenolic tars and sand, and land filled the wastes in an off-site hazardous waste disposal Site. The pit was then backfilled and covered with clean sand.
- In September 1986, the Record of Decision for the Site was signed that called for incineration of Site wastes.
- During March and April 1988, the EPA fenced the Site.
- In July 1989, the EPA repaired fences due to flooding, and to deny access to children who were apparently using the Site as a playground.
- Remedial Action construction bids were first solicited by the State in September 1989, but the EPA instructed the State to cancel them because they were noncompetitive (only one contractor submitted a bid of \$137 million - nearly 150% of the ROD).
- The second, revised, Request for Proposal resulted in four valid bids ranging from \$91 million to \$99 million; IT-Davy's low bid was accepted in June 1990.
- Incineration of one billion pounds of contaminated soil was completed in June 1994.
- The incinerator facilities have been removed and the Site has been planted with local grasses.
- Operation and Maintenance began in 1996, annual ground water monitoring was conducted in 1997.
- Sixth year ground water monitoring was conducted in 2002.

ENFORCEMENT HISTORY

- **PRPs Identified:** 11
- **Viable PRPs:** 10
- Cost recovery was successful in recovering \$120,000,000.

HUMAN HEALTH AND ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- Possible human health problems could be caused by contact or ingestion of Site contaminants.
- Fishing and hunting activities occur routinely around the Site.
- Surface water and ground water were contaminated.
- The Site is in the flood plain and is frequently inundated.
- A large area of a sludge overflow extended eastward from the main waste pit.

RECORD OF DECISION

Signed: September 18, 1986

- The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Sikes Disposal Pit Site called for onsite incineration of sludge and soils, and treatment of contaminated water; this was accomplished in two phases.
- In the first phase (October 1990 through January 1992), the Site was prepared for remediation, including construction of flood control structures, installation of a temporary incinerator, and construction of a water treatment facility.
- During the second phase, all wastes were incinerated eliminating the threats to human health and the source of contamination to the ground water; removal of treatment facilities and Site restoration were completed in 1994.

<u>Other Remedies Considered</u>	<u>Reason Not Chosen</u>
1. "No Action"	Too great a threat from the Site, needs action
2. Off-Site landfill for RCRA sludge	Does not protect ground water
3. On-Site landfill	Does not protect ground water
4. Off-Site incineration	Too costly
5. Cap & slurry wall	Flooding would cause cap integrity problems

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 8/83, revised 12/87.
- Open houses and workshops: 1/88, 1/89, 10/90 (TWC), 2/91, 1/92, 11/92
- Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 8/86
- ROD Fact Sheet: 9/86
- EPA Milestone Fact Sheets: 1/83, 7/86, 9/86, 1/90, 4/90,
- TWC Milestone Fact Sheets: 12/89, 5/90, 9/90, 12/90, 12/93
- Commemorative event in 1995 with TNRCC to announce completion of the cleanup.
- Citizens on the Site mailing list: 287
- Constituency Interest:
 - * This was a high profile Site; moderate/mixed citizen interest.
 - * Community issues included concern with air emissions from the incineration remedy and a fear that the incinerator would become a permanent installation and accept wastes from other Sites.
- Site Repository: Crosby Public Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, TX 77532

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

- Availability Notice: 4/88, re-advertised 8/17/90 and 8/31/90
- Letters of Intent Received:
 - 1) Environmental Relief Committee (ERC) - 4/25/88 (withdrawn)
 - 2) Barrett-Crosby Civic League (BCCL) - 8/21/90
- Final Application Received: BCCL - 8/26/91
- Grant Award: 3/4/91
- Current Status: The grant was not used; the EPA withdrew the grant - closed in 1998.

CONTACTS

- **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Gary Miller, P.E.
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- **State Contact:** Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Bob Wucher,
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- **Region 6 Public Liaison (EPA):** Arnold Ondarza, (303) 312-6777

BENEFITS

- Removal actions and fencing the Site reduced imminent threats from the Site, and discouraged access to the Site by local children.
- 496,254 tons of contaminated soil and sludge, and 350 million gallons of contaminated water were treated through the incineration remedy.